



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



In New York, prices were unchanged. Elsewhere, weekly prices were higher on all sizes when compared to the previous week. Trade sentiment was mixed and ranged steady to instances firm, but mostly reported as steady to fully steady. Demand into all outlets was light to very good. Supplies were adequate to at times close, occasionally ample in areas of the Midwest. Breaking stock offerings were irregular to tight and for the mostly light to moderate demand. Spent hens were generally sufficient for the at least moderate demand. Processing schedules were noted as normal for this week.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

MIDWEST REGIONAL Prices to retailers were sharply higher with prices to producers unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady to instances firm, mostly fully steady. Sales into retail continued in a full range of light to very good, mostly moderate. Loose egg movement varied from light to good. Supplies were in good balance to instances ample as a few buyers cut loads due sluggish sales. Central States breaking stock prices were unchanged. Offerings were very tight, demand mostly light. Floor stocks closely balanced to tight. Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm.

	RANGE	MOSTLY	IA-MN-WI - Prices paid to producers.	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	114-123	118-120	LARGE	97-104	99
LARGE	114-122	116-119	MEDIUM	83-87	85
MEDIUM	100-106	103-105	SMALL	49-51	

MIDWEST AREA: IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, OH, NE, ND, SD, WI, WV, Western NY, and Western PA

NORTHEAST REGIONAL Prices were sharply higher on all sizes when compared to previous week's pricing. The market tone was steady to fully steady entering the week. Demand was moderate to fairly good. Supplies ranged adequate to available. Breaking stock offerings were irregular for schedules that were reduced to usually normal. Spent fowl were generally sufficient for regular processing schedules.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	120-134	123-126
LARGE	115-129	120-124
MEDIUM	101-114	106-108

NORTHEAST AREA: CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, eastern NJ, eastern NY, PA, RI, Northern VA, and VT

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL Prices were sharply higher. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. Retail demand was in a full range of moderate to very good, usually fairly good to good with feature activity providing the best consumer interest. Food service movement was moderate to instances fairly good. Supplies were adequate to at times close. Central states breaking stock prices were unchanged. Offerings were tight for the mostly light demand. Breakers watching market developments and buying only when needed. Floor stocks closely balanced to tight. Trade sentiment fully steady to firm.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	120.5-129	122-125
LARGE	119.5-128	121-124
MEDIUM	103.5-112	105-108

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA: AR, AZ, CO, KS, LA, MO, NM, OK, and TX

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL Prices were sharply higher on all sizes when compared to previous week's values. Trade sentiment was fully steady beginning the week. Retail and distributive demand was moderate to good. Supplies were balanced to adequate. Breaking stock offerings were irregular for reduced to usually normal schedules. Light type fowl were usually sufficient for normal processing schedules.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	104.25-130	124-127
LARGE	102.25-128	122-125
MEDIUM	90.25-111	104-108

SOUTHEAST AREA: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, eastern TN, and southern VA

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

NEW YORK Prices entered the week unchanged on all sizes. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. Demand was moderate. Supplies were sufficient for present trade requirements.

	RANGE
EXTRA LARGE	129-133
LARGE	127-131
MEDIUM	113-117

CHICAGO & MIDWEST EGGS Prices were sharply higher. The market tone steady to full steady. Retail demand was moderate to instances very good. Food service movement was moderate. Supplies were adequate, instances close.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	120-128	122-124
LARGE	119-127	120-123
MEDIUM	105-114	108-110

see page 3 for prices on certified organic eggs in cartons

WESTERN Prices 10 cents higher on jumbo, 12 cents higher on extra large and large, and 7 cents higher on medium throughout the region. The Pacific region inventory was 1% higher than last Monday with California up 3% and Oregon-Washington-Utah down 3%. Retailer demand light to mainly moderate. Offerings about adequate.

CALIFORNIA

Prices 10 cents higher on jumbo, 12 cents higher on extra large and large, and 7 cents higher on medium and small. The California inventory was 3% higher than last Monday. Retailer demand light to moderate. Offerings adequate. Small benchmark price 122. Ads in Northern California: major- large dozen 2 for \$4, 18 pack 2 for \$4, 2 for \$5, medium dozen 179.

CALIFORNIA: California Egg Marketing Association and other marketers benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms.

	RANGE
JUMBO	167
EXTRA LARGE	166
LARGE	157
MEDIUM	142

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA		NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	
	RANGE		RANGE
JUMBO	299-399	JUMBO	309-409
EXTRA LARGE	289-359	EXTRA LARGE	329-399
LARGE	239-349	LARGE	249-379
MEDIUM	199-289	MEDIUM	229-319

NATIONAL RETAIL EGG PURCHASES REPORT Cooperators estimate orders for the week ending March 19, 2004 will decrease by 4 percent. Present week purchases for the week ending March 12, 2004 were 248,146 cases which was 7 percent above the prior week and 6 percent above estimates.

	CARTONED	LOOSE	TOTAL
Cases purchased present week.....	208,034	40,112	248,146

	+7	+5	+7
% change from the prior week.....			

Comparison figures are compiled on a matched plant basis. Purchases and estimates by 14 cooperators; 30 dozen cases or equivalent.

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK Prices were unchanged. Offerings were tight with demand mostly light. Breakers watching market developments and buying only when needed. Floor stocks closely balanced to tight. Trade sentiment fully steady to firm.

Prices in cents per dozen, delivered to breakers, 48 lb. minimum net weight per 30 dozen case, eggs from table egg layers. Packaging may vary.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	91-94	
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	80-86	80-82
CENTRAL STATES AREA: AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI		

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Majority prices were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was moderate to at least moderate. Offerings were generally adequate. Processing schedules were mostly normal. Supplies of finished product were clearing satisfactorily. The undertone was at least steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *
FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 15-MAR-04

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6.25-10.25	8.75-9.25	8.91
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT		
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT		

*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Prices were generally unchanged compared to the past week. Demand was moderate for fully adequate supplies of spent heavy hens. Finished sales were fair. Schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *
PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 15-MAR-04

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6.25-12	8.5-9.25	9.35

*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT-AM MAR 15, 2004

STOCKS ON HAND AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING 1/ 2/
(30 DOZEN CASES-IN THOUSANDS)

		NO	SO	SO	5-Area	
		Northeast	CENT	Atl	Pacific	
Jumbo	Curr Wk	11.4	20.8	9.6	16.2	73.3
	Change	-1.0	1.0	1.6	1.4	7%
Ex Lge	Curr Wk	28.0	41.8	15.3	26.8	149.2
	Change	1.4	8.2	3.0	6.5	17%
Large	Curr Wk	57.8	130.4	97.2	121.4	511.1
	Change	6.8	23.1	26.9	21.0	16%
Medium	Curr Wk	21.1	35.6	16.3	21.8	127.3
	Change	0.7	1.9	3.6	1.1	12%
Small	Curr Wk	5.5	4.9	1.5	4.6	21.1
	Change	-1.1	0.9	0.1	0.6	-3%
Misc	Curr Wk	4.6	22.8	7.6	12.9	53.5
	Change	0.5	-0.3	-0.7	-0.5	-5%
Ungraded	Curr Wk	26.7	45.2	19.2	41.4	165.1
	Change	4.1	9.8	2.9	9.7	21%
Total	Curr Wk	155.1	301.5	166.7	245.1	1,100.6
Percent	Change	8%	17%	29%	19%	14%

TOTAL	Number of Cases	Percent Change	Number of Cooperators
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Shell Egg	1,100.6	14%	170
Shell Egg Breaking Stock 2/	217.0	-1%	35

Total Shell Egg	1,317.6	11%	205
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1/Information is supplied by a universe of 170 cooperators who normally have stocks on hand each Monday A.M. and is on the basis of matched plants reporting in both the current and previous weeks. Sample does not represent total U.S. inventory but includes eggs packed for export when in cooperator's coolers.

No valid comparison can be made with year ago or previous months' figures due to changes in number of plants surveyed, holidays falling in different weeks or changes in size of plant operations.

CANADIAN EGGS

MONTREAL: WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE TO RETAILERS (CANADIAN CENTS) GRADED IN CARTONS, AS REPORTED BY CANADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 01, 2004.

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	193	190	181	116.2

MINIMUM PRODUCER PRICES FOB FARM FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING MARCH 01, 2004 AS ESTABLISHED BY ONTARIO EGG AND FOWL PRODUCERS MARKETING BOARD.

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	149	149	139	77

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — DAILY WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR MARCH 12, 2004

CURRENT LOADS								FUTURE LOADS								TOTAL LOADS											
8.00								16.00								24.00											
SE				NE				MW				SC				NW				SW				LOADS			
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST			
GNR W 1	—	—	100.00	101.00	—	—	—	4.00	GL W J	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	121.00	GL W J	—	—	—	—	—	.25			
GL W J	—	—	—	100.00	103.00	—	—	.50	GL W XL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	121.00	GL W XL	—	—	—	—	—	4.00			
GL W XL	—	—	113.00	114.33	110.38	—	—	7.00	GL W LG	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	GL W LG	—	—	—	—	—	4.00			
GL W LG	—	—	—	113.00	110.00	—	—	8.25	GL W MD	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	GL W MD	—	—	—	—	—	3.00			
GL W MD	—	—	92.00	93.00	—	—	—	4.25																			

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — WEEKLY (5-DAY) WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 03/08/04-03/12/04

CURRENT LOADS								FUTURE LOADS								TOTAL LOADS							
74.00								89.75								163.75							
SE				NE				MW				SC				NW				SW			
CLASS	ORG	DST		ORG	DST			ORG	DST			CLASS	ORG	DST		ORG	DST			ORG	DST		
GNR W 1	97.33	110.36		99.72	99.83	113.00	—	58.00				GNR W 1	103.00	104.00	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	15.00
GNR W 3	—	—		86.00	87.00	—	—	1.00				GNR BR 1	—	99.00	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	2.00
GNR BR 1	—	92.00		—	—	—	—	3.00				GL W J	117.00	—	—	—	—	—		125.10	—	—	5.25
GL W J	—	—		—	100.00	110.56	—	4.50				GL W XL	115.75	—	—	—	—	—		123.69	—	—	14.75
GL W XL	—	120.29		111.60	114.07	112.17	—	38.25				GL W LG	112.00	115.84	—	128.25	—	—		124.70	—	—	24.25
GL W LG	—	119.63		108.50	112.29	111.84	—	47.50				GL W MD	—	101.27	—	—	—	—		107.47	—	—	20.25
GL W MD	102.00	104.44		92.00	97.80	97.00	102.00	26.25				GL W SM	65.00	—	—	—	—	—		74.00	—	—	1.00
GL W SM	—	60.50		57.50	60.00	—	69.50	3.00				NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	1.00
GL BR LG	—	—		—	—	105.00	112.38	2.00															
NRBS - 50	—	—		—	—	—	94.00	.50															
NRBS - 48	—	—		—	92.00	—	95.50	4.00															
NRBS - 45	—	—		—	—	—	88.00	1.00															
NRBS - 42	—	—		—	—	78.50	80.75	2.00															
NRBS - 36	—	—		—	—	69.50	72.00	.75															

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT-FROZEN EGGS (In Thousands)

ON HAND	03/08/04	03/01/04	03/10/03
PACIFIC COAST	257	349	389
LOS ANGELES	187	276	351

HONOLULU, OAHU-WHITE SHELL EGGS

UNAVAILABLE

NORTH CAROLINA EGGS The market is higher on all sizes. The supply is tight. Retail demand is moderate to good.

PRICES WEIGHTED AVERAGE, IN SMALL LOTS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, NEARBY RETAIL OUTLET, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	140.63
LARGE	138.63
MEDIUM	121.63
SMALL	85.00

CERTIFIED ORGANIC EGGS IN CARTONS

(price per carton delivered to first receivers)

Brown Eggs	CENTS/CARTON	MOSTLY
Extra Large doz.	210 – 250	222 – 240
1/2 doz.	123 – 151	125 – 134
Large doz.	200 – 250	217 – 225
1/2 doz.	120 – 142	128 – 132

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